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**To: ConnectME Authority**  
**Phil Lindley, Executive Director ConnectME**

**RE: Pre-Application Letter – 5<sup>th</sup> Round Grant**

**Project: Center Limestone RT, Fort Fairfield, ME**

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In response to the Authority's announcement of its Fifth Grant Round, Pioneer Wireless, Inc., dba Pioneer Broadband, ("PBB") is pleased to submit this Pre-Application letter for our "Center Limestone RT" DSL project.

1. We are proposing to install a DSL Access Module (DSLAM) adjacent to the Remote Terminal (RT) located on the Center Limestone Rd in Fort Fairfield, ME. This terminal serves a portion of the Fort Fairfield area that includes approximately 50 households. The exact service area will be the geographical area covered by the LEC's wire facilities at the RT. Pioneer is in the process of acquiring the exact route of the physical cable plant from the LEC.
2. Our knowledge of this area is extensive. We have communicated with other service providers (FairPoint and TimeWarner Cable) in the region and there is no evidence that they have plans to expand into this locale.
3. We intend to utilize a fiberoptic backhaul link to serve a remotely located DSLAM adjacent to the RT. Broadband speeds of 2M/512K will be provided, and we will provide digital telephone service for those customers that desire it. It is estimated the installation of the backhaul links and DSLAM's can be completed within 6 months of funding depending on weather conditions when funding is made available. Customer installations can begin immediately once DSLAM's are operational.
4. Current estimated project cost is \$67,525. This amount is subject to change as project details are worked out and will be finalized within the formal application for this project. PBB is requesting funding for \$33,763 representing 50% of the estimated project cost.
5. PBB will fund \$33,763, or 50% of the estimated project cost. Appropriate documentation and evidence of funding availability will be provided in the formal application in a form acceptable to the Authority.
6. There are an estimated 50 customers served within an 18,000' radius of the project site. PBB will obtain the exact number of possible customers from the LEC when we submit the full application. There are few businesses. We calculate that the DSLAM can serve all 50 customers, thus providing 100% coverage within the available wire center.

7. We are working with the area businesses and local groups in gathering support of this project. Evidence of partnerships and statements of support are being acquired and will be included within the formal application. The Town of Fort Fairfield has indicated that they are willing to assist in the build costs, but the details of the collaboration are not finalized yet.

8. PBB serves in 45 Maine towns from 51 locations, broadcasting over 5000 square miles, and serving over 5000 customers via fiberoptic cable, wireless, cable, DSL, dialup. PBB has a proven track record of successful expansion activities and deep commitment to serving rural Maine. Further evidence can be provided upon request.

We look forward to formal application availability and working with the Authority to bridge the digital divide for the residents and businesses of this area.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Flewelling

